Message Text

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EO 11652: GDS TAGS: PDIP IN

SUBJ: VISITS TO WASHINGTON BY FOREIGN MINISTER AND

PRIME MINISTER

- 1. AMERICA JOINT SECRETARY ASRANI INFORMED US AUGUST 25 THAT FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE NOW DOES NOT REPEAT NOT INTEND TO VISIT WASHINGTON EXCEPT POSSIBLE FOR THE ONE DAY GANDHI CELEBRATIONS OCTOBER 2. IF HE DOES VISIT WASHINGTON FOR THAT PURPOSE HE WILL HAVE NO PROGRAM WITH USG OFFICIALS. HE DOES, HOWEVER, HOPE TO MEET WITH SECRETARY VANCE IN NEW YORK. THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL REACH NEW YORK ON SEPTEMBER 25. VAJAYEE IS ALSO CONSIDERING ACCOMPANYING THE PRIME MINISTER ON HIS VISIT TO THE US. ASRANI SAID THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO DECISION ON THIS BUT IT SEEMED LIKELY THAT VAJPAYEE WOULD BE IN THE DESAI PARTY.
- 2. ASRANI REPORTED THAT KEWAL SINGH HAD SUGGESTED A THREE-DAY VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO WASHINGTON WITH THE FIRST TWO DEVOTED TO OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS AND THE THIRD TO MEETING THE INDIAN COMMUNITY, THE PRESS, TV AND OTHER PRIVATE ENGAGEMENTS. HE HAS SUGGESTED MEETINGS WITH CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS AND EITHER A PRESS CLUB LUNCHEON OR A BREAKFAXBMHETING WITH SELECTED CORRESPONDENTS. HE HAS MENTIONED THE POSSICONFIDENTIAL

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BILITY OF AN ADDRESS BEFORE A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD GIVE A WORKING DINNER ON THE FIRST EVENING AND THE INDIAN RETURN DINNER ON THE NEXT EVENING WOULD BE ATTENDED BY THE VICE PRESIDENT.

3. ASRANI SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WILL NOT

REPEAT NOT VISIT THE WEST COAST BUT HE WILL GO TO NEW YORK CITY WHERE HE PLANS TO ADDRESS THE UNGA. IF THE GA SPEECH PRECEDES HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON, CURRENT MEA THINKING IS THAT IT WOULD NOT BE PROPER FOR HIM TO MEET PRIVATE AMERICANS IN NEW YORK ON THAT OCCASION BUT THAT HE SHOULD RETURN FOLLOWING HIS OFFICIAL VISIT. THE INDIANS ARE EAGER TO DECIDE UPON DATES FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENGAGEMENT BUT ARE UNABLE TO DO SO UNTIL THEY ARE INFORMED OF THE TIME FOR THE WASHINGTON VISIT. GOHEEN

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